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RURAL DISTRICT OF BROADWOODWIDGER

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December 1961.

BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1961.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st December 1961, presented in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry.

The general health of the district has been good throughout the year, although there was an epidemic of measles during the spring and early summer.

Vital Statistics are set out in the tables below:

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	29,294.
Population - 1931 Census	2,177.
Population - 1951 Census	2,028.
Estimated population - mid 1961 ..	2,010.
Parishes	6.
Number of inhabited houses	606
Rateable value	£8,519
Product of the Penny Rate	£33.1s.1d.
Loan Debt	£66,116.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Male.	Female		Total.
Legitimate	12	14		
Illegitimate	-	2		
	12	16	=	28
Deaths.	11	10	=	21.

		England & Wales.
LIVE BIRTHS.		
Number	28	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.9	17.4
Corrected birth rate	14.5	
Illegitimate live births % of total births	7%	
STILLBIRTHS		
Number	1	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	34.4	18.7
Total live and still births	29	

		England & Wales.
INFANT MORTALITY RATES		
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	nil	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-	21.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births).	34.4	
MATERNAL MORTALITY		
Number of deaths	nil	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	
DEATHS		
Number	21	
Death rate per 1,000 population	10.4	12.0.
Corrected death rate	12.2.	

The Chief Causes of Death were as follows:

Cancer	4
Vascular diseases	3
Coronary diseases	3
Heart diseases	1
Other circulatory disease..	1
Pneumonia	4
Accidental	4
Other ill-defined diseases.	1

Age at Death Table.

Age of death	Male	Female.	
Infants under 1 year	-	-	
1 - 5 years	1	-	
6 - 15 "	1	-	
16 - 25 "	-	-	
26 - 35 "	1	-	
36 - 45 "	-	-	
46 - 55 "	2	-	
56 - 65 "	2	2	
66 - 75 "	2	1	
76 and over.	2	7	
	11.	10.	= 21 deaths.

General Provision of Health Services.

The general provision of the Health Services remained as in previous years and no complaints were received.

Infectious Diseases.

Infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners

Ages.	Measles		Whooping Cough		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1.	-	-	-	1	-	1
1 -	-	1	2	-	-	-
2 -	2	-	-	2	-	-
3 -	2	4	3	1	-	-
4 -	2	4	1	2	-	-
5 - 9	22	25	1	3	-	-
10 - 14	4	5	1	1	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	32	40	8	10	-	1

Infectious diseases notified by school authorities.

School	Measles	Mumps	Chicken Pox	Whooping Cough.
Broadwoodwidger	18	-	-	2
North Petherwin	18	1	6	-
St.Giles-in-the-Heath	12	-	-	2
Totals:	48	1	6	4

Tuberculosis

No deaths were recorded from this cause during the year. One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was reported.

At the end of the year eight cases remained on the Register as follows:

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
4	2	-	2

My thanks are due to Mr.Judd for preparing the section of the report which he actually administers.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

E. .D. ALLEN-PRICE.

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR's REPORT

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

The poor response of property owners to take advantage of Standard Grants towards the cost of modernising structurally sound old houses by providing the amenities of a bath, wash-basin, hot water supply, water closet and ventilated larder is most disappointing.

Standard Grants have been available since July 1959 but, in the two and half years since the Act came into force we have received only 16 applications. One would have expected that as the availability of these grants became better known the number of applications received would have increased but this has not been the case because in 1961 only four applications were received and two of these were from new owners immediately upon purchasing their properties.

During the year the Council built no Council houses owing to the high rate of interest payable on loans which would reflect on the rents charged for new houses. When interest rates are lower, and if the Council decide to continue with a building programme, one feels that consideration might be given to the need for small houses or bungalows for the aged. The need of this group of persons should not be overlooked.

With the advent of the National Health and other Social services there is a progressive increase of numbers in the older age-groups with a decline in numbers in the younger age-groups. With advancing years the problem of running a house which, in many cases lacks all modern amenities, becomes an increasing burden especially when the housewife is in poor health. Stairs present a problem to many aged persons especially as such a large percentage suffer from rheumatic affections and for that reason one must consider the advantages of bungalows over small houses.

COUNCIL HOUSES

There are 40 Council houses situated in the following Parishes:-

Broadwoodwidger	10
North Petherwin	10
St.Giles-in-the-Heath.....	6
Virginstowe	2
Werrington	12

Private Enterprise houses completed during the year ... nil.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

Discretionary grants offered	nil
Discretionary grant schemes completed	1
Total cost of Scheme	£285.0.0d.
Grant paid	£142.10s.0d.

Discretionary grants have been paid in respect of 26 dwelling houses; the total cost of the schemes has been £14.004 and the total grants paid by the Council £6,042.10s.0d. The properties re-conditioned have been 16 agricultural worker's cottages, nine owner-occupied farmhouses and one private house.

Standard grants offered	4
Schemes completed during the year	6
Grants paid during the year	£785.0s0d.

Standard grants have been paid in respect of 12 dwelling houses; the total cost of the schemes has been £3,746. 18s. 9d. and the total grants paid by the Council £1,557. 16s. 11d. The properties re-conditioned have been four owner-occupied farmhouses, one tenanted farmhouse, five agricultural worker's cottages and two other cottages.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:-

a) Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	38
b) Inspections made for the purpose	57

2. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... nil

3. Dwelling houses not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 26

4. Remedy of defects during the year:-

a) With informal notices	27
b) Formal notices under the Housing Acts	nil
c) Formal notice under Public Health Act 1936	3

5. Houses found to be overcrowded ..... nil

RENT ACT 1957

Since the introduction of the Rent Act 1957 no applications have been received for a Certificate of Disrepair.

PLANS

The following plans were approved by the Council under their Building Byelaws:-

Additions and alterations to existing houses	7
Agricultural Buildings	5
Garages	2
New Dwelling houses	3
Workshop	1
Milking Parlour	4

One application for a Holiday Caravan Site was received but later withdrawn.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Bakeries

There are no bakeries but a good delivery service is provided from Launceston.

Slaughter-Houses

There was only one slaughterhouse in the district. The Slaughter House Report requiring work to be carried out at the slaughter-house was not complied with and the licence lapsed at the end of the year.

Grocers

There are seven general stores from which groceries are sold, only two of these are of any size. Mobile grocers store vans are increasing in the district and these are found to be kept clean.

Ice Cream

There are five retailers of pre-packed ice cream. In all cases conditions are satisfactory.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 2.

The following samples were taken under the above Act during the year by the County Inspector:-

Table Jelly)	
Vinegar)	
Sauce)	All genuine.
Tea)	
Milk - 7 samples)	

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse is collected bi-monthly by contract in a covered refuse lorry from all villages and hamlets and houses bordering the principal roads in the district. Since 1st April 1962 this service has been carried out monthly.

FACTORIES

The only factory registered under the Factories Act, 1937 is for motor vehicle repairs. It was not found necessary to serve any notice.

WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board has submitted the following report on progress in your district during the year:-

"Supplies and pressures have been maintained throughout the year from Ivyhouse Reservoir which is served by the Board's main works at Prewley.

(1) An agricultural scheme from Broadwoodwidger to the Launceston-Holsworthy road at Peters Finger was commenced on the 28th November, 1961, and favourable progress is being maintained.

(2) Within the next financial year a water supply is to be made available at Virginstow.

(3) A scheme to lay a 6" diameter main from North Petherwin to Caudworthy and Maxworthy with branches to Trillacott and Wheatley is also to be completed during this period.

A further scheme to lay a main from Langdon Cross to Clubworthy is also being considered."

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council for their support and for the ready hearing which they always give me.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

T. A. JUDD

Public Health Inspector.